

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9094
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY
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C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 1406

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR CY OVIP (CLIFFORD, CLARK M)
SUBJECT: CLIFFORD VISIT: PRESS ARRANGEMENTS

1. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT PRESS CONTACTS DURING THE
ATHENS CLIFFORD VISIT ENCOMPASS THE FOLLOWING:

A. AIRPORT ARRIVAL. ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE
COORDINATED WITH GOG OFFICIALS TO ALLOW TV AND STILL
PHOTOGRAPHERS TO COVER CLIFFORD ARRIVAL ON TARMACK IN
FRONT OF OLYMPIC AIRLINES AIRPORT VIP FACILITY. ALL
OTHER PRESS WILL BE GATHERED IN ONE OF THE TWO VIP
ROOMS. FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS PLANS TO ACCOMPANY
MR. CLIFFORD INTO PRESS ROOM AND ADDRESS WORDS OF
WELCOME. MR. CLIFFORD WOULD RESPOND BY READING HIS
ARRIVAL STATEMENT. USIS WILL DISTRIBUTE CLIFFORD
ARRIVAL STATEMENT IN ENGLISH AND GREEK.

B. CALL ON PRESIDENT TSATSOS. WE RECOMMEND
THAT TV AND STILL PHOTOGRAPHY BE PERMITTED AT SOME
POINT DURING OFFICIAL CALL BY MR. CLIFFORD ON
PRESIDENT TSATSOS. IF POSSIBLE, THIS PRESS CONTACT
SHOULD BE RESTRICTED ONLY TO PHOTO-OPPORTUNITY SESSION.
HOWEVER, IF GREEK PRESIDENT CHOOSES TO MAKE A STATEMENT
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OF GREETING, MR. CLIFFORD MIGHT MAKE AN IMPROMPTU
RESPONSE.

C. MEETINGS WITH PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS.
A PHOTO-OPPORTUNITY SESSION FOR TV AND PRESS SHOULD BE
PERMITTED DURING MR CLIFFORDS FIRST CALL ON PRIME
MINISTER.

FOLLOWING THE SUBSTANTIVE MEETING WITH THE PRIME, MINISTER, WE RECOMMEND THAT BOTH PRINCIPALS MAKE A BRIEF STATEMENT CHARACTERIZING THE JUST-COMPLETED SESSION. IF THE PM ALLOWS A COUPLE OF QUESTIONS, WHICH IS POSSIBLE, MR. CLIFFORD WOULD ALSO BE EXPECTED TO RESPOND TO ANY QUERIES POSED TO HIM. WE RECOMMEND THAT IN EITHER CIRCUMSTANCE PRESS CONTACTS FOLLOWING BUSINESS SESSIONS BE KEPT VERY BRIEF.

D. MEETINGS WITH KITSIOS. WE RECOMMEND THE SAME AS IN PARA (C).

E. SOCIAL FUNCTIONS HOSTED BY AMBASSADOR KUBISCH. WE RECOMMEND THAT NO PRESS BE PERMITTED INTO AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE. INSTEAD, USIS CAN PROVIDE A SINGLE STILL PHOTOGRAPHER FOR PICTURE TAKING AND USIS CAN CONTROL DISTRIBUTION OF ANY PRINTS.

F. AIRPORT DEPARTURE. PRESS SITE WILL BE ESTABLISHED AT VIP FACILITY NEAR OLYMPIC'S TERMINAL AIRPORT BUILDING WHERE MR. CLIFFORD CAN MAKE HIS DEPARTURE STATEMENT. COPIES IN ENGLISH AND GREEK WILL BE DISTRIBUTED BY USIS. MR. CLIFFORD MIGHT WANT TO RESPOND TO QUESTIONS DURING THIS SESSION, BUT IF HE CHOOSES TO DO SO, WE RECOMMEND SESSION BE OF SHORT DURATION SO AS NOT TO BE CONSTRUED AS A FORMAL NEWS CONFERENCE.

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2. AS OF NOW, WE RECOMMEND AGAINST PLANNING A FORMAL PRESS CONFERENCE IN ATHENS DURING THE FEBRUARY 17 TO 20 VISIT. THE COMBINATION OF HIS ARRIVAL STATEMENT AND REMARKS FOLLOWING SUBSTANTIVE MEETINGS WILL, IN OUR JUDGMENT, MEET LEGITIMATE PRESS NEEDS FOR THE FLOW OF PERTINENT INFORMATION, AND HIS DEPARTURE STATEMENT SHOULD SERVE AS AN APPROPRIATE WRAP-UP SUMMARY OF HIS ACTIVITIES. WE BELIEVE THIS SHOULD SUFFICE. HOWEVER IF IT IS DECIDED THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO HAVE A PRESS CONFERENCE IN EITHER ATHENS OR ANKARA, WE URGE THAT ONE BE HELD IN BOTH CAPITALS. (AS INDICATED REFTEL, GOG HAS NO OBJECTION TO A NEWS CONFERENCE IF WE WANT ONE BUT BELIEVES IT SHOULD BE A PURELY AMERICAN AFFAIR.)

3. THERE IS ONE OTHER POSSIBILITY THAT COULD BE CONSIDERED IF MR. CLIFFORD RETURNS TO ATHENS FOLLOWING HIS CYPRUS VISIT. SINCE HE WILL HAVE COMPLETED HIS TALKS IN ALL THREE COUNTRIES IT MIGHT BE USEFUL TO

MEET WITH THE PRESS DURING SUCH A RETURN VISIT TO
ATHENS. THERE IS A FULL PRESS CORPS HERE OF AMERICAN,
INTERNATIONAL (INCLUDING FOUR RESIDENT TURKISH
CORRESPONDENTS) AND, OF COURSE, GREEK MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES
WHO COLLABORAGE CLOSELY WITH THE GREEK CYPRIOT
PRESS.
KUBISCH

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